

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method comprising:
 - 1 defining a library of available criteria to be used in filtering a
 - 2 population of items to identify items of interest, each criterion having a
 - 3 graphical representation;
 - 4 receiving a selection of at least one of the criterion to be applied to the
 - 5 population as a filter;
 - 6 accepting an indication of a tier of the filter to which the selected
 - 7 criterion is to be associated;
 - 8 identifying a list of items of interest satisfying a current set of criteria
 - 9 defining the filter; and
 - 10 displaying a graphical representation of the filter while the filter is
 - 11 constructed.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
 - 2 including the selected criterion into the indicated tier such that a graphical
 - 3 representation of the selected criterion is merged with a graphical
 - 4 representation of the indicated tier in the graphical representation of the filter.
- 1 3. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
 - 2 applying a Boolean OR to those criteria on a same tier of the filter; and
 - 3 applying a Boolean AND to those criteria residing on different tiers of
 - 4 the filter.
- 1 4. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
 - 2 displaying a representation of the list of items of interest.
- 1 5. The method of claim 4 wherein identifying comprises:
 - 2 computing a tally of the list of items of interest.
- 1 6. The method of claim 5 further comprising:

2 displaying the tally of the list of items of interest.

1 7. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
2 receiving an indication of one of the tiers of the filter;
3 identifying, in response to receiving, a group of items satisfying the
4 filter at the indicated tier;
5 displaying the group of items.

1 8. The method of claim 1 wherein the population comprises a group of
2 securities.

1 9. The method of claim 1 wherein the library of available criteria
2 comprises criteria derived from a community of investors.

1 10. The method of claim 1 wherein the library of available criteria
2 comprises user customizable filter criteria.

1 11. The method of claim 1 wherein the library of available criteria
2 comprises predefined criteria.

1 12. A machine readable medium having instructions stored thereon which
2 when executed by a processor cause the processor to perform operations
3 comprising:
4 defining a library of criteria to be used in filtering a population of items
5 to identify items of interest, each criterion having a graphical representation;
6 receiving a selection of at least one of the criterion to be applied to the
7 population as a filter;
8 accepting an indication of a tier of the filter to which the selected
9 criterion is to be associated;
10 identifying a list of items of interest satisfying a current set of criteria
11 defining the filter; and
12 displaying a graphical representation of the filter while the filter is
13 constructed.

1 13. The machine readable medium of claim 12 in which the instructions
2 cause the processor to perform operations further comprising:
3 including the selected criterion into the indicated tier such that a
4 graphical representation of the selected criterion is merged with a graphical
5 representation of the indicated tier in the graphical representation of the filter.

1 14. The machine readable medium of claim 12 in which the instructions
2 cause the processor to perform operations further comprising:
3 applying a Boolean OR to those criteria on a same tier of the filter; and
4 applying a Boolean AND to those criteria residing on different tiers of
5 the filter.

1 15. The machine readable medium of claim 12 in which the instructions
2 cause the processor to perform operations further comprising:
3 displaying a representation of the list of items of interest.

1 16. The machine readable medium machine readable medium of claim 12
2 wherein the population comprises a group of securities.

1 17. The machine readable medium of claim 12 in which the instructions
2 cause the processor to perform operations further comprising:
3 receiving an indication of one of the tiers of the filter;
4 identifying, in response to receiving, a group of items satisfying the
5 filter at the indicated tier;
6 displaying the group of items.